

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 /113 W

-----030930Z 053373 /12

R 030800Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3292

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI BLASTS ETHIOPIA IN NATIONAL DAY SPEECH

REF: KHARTOUM 3819

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S JANUARY 1 NATIONAL DAY SPEECH DELIVERED IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL KADUGLI WAS GENERALLY MODERATE REGARDING CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN SUDAN, AND MUCH OF IT WAS DEVOTED TO OUTLINING NEW PROJECTS EARMARKED FOR SOUTHERN KORDOFAN. HOWEVER, NIMEIRI USED OCCASION TO MAKE SECOND MAJOR ATTACK ON EPMG IN LESS THAN A WEEK.

2. REFERRING TO SPEECH HE MADE IN GEDAREF (REFTEL), PRESIDENT REPEATED CHARGES THAT EPMG AIDING REBELS WHO PREPARING ATTACK SUDAN. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HARASSMENT OF SUDANESE DIPLOMATS
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IN ADDIS AND OF GOS MINISTERS ATTENDING REGIONAL MEETINGS THERE. HE REITERATED CHARGES OF ETHIOPIAN COMPLICITY IN JULY COUP ATTEMPT. NIMEIRI SAID HE "SURPRISED" AT EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS IN REACTION TO HIS GEDAREF SPEECH.

3. KADUGLI SPEECH MOVED BEYOND GEDAREF SPEECH, HOWEVER, WHEN

NIMEIRI SAID HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE NUMBER OF RETALIATORY ACTIONS. HE SAID GOS WOULD CALL UPON OAU AND ECA TO MOVE HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS IN LIGHT HARASSMENT SUDANESE DIPLOMATS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. IF CONTINUATION OF PLOTTING AGAINST SUDAN CONTINUES, NIMEIRI SAID, GOS WOULD CLOSE BORDER WITH ETHIOPIA AND MAY UTILIZE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ETHIOPIANS LIVING IN SUDAN TO EXPORT UNREST AND PROBLEMS TO ETHIOPIA. FYI NIMEIRI SAID THERE 140,000 ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES IN SUDAN OF WHICH 100,000 ARE ERITREANS; ANOTHER 100,000 NON-REFUGEE ERITREANS ARE IN COUNTRY. END FYI. THESE REMARKS BALANCED SOMEWHAT BY NIMEIRI SAYING SUDANESE KEEP NOT RPT NOT TO ACT AGAINST INTERESTS OF BROTHERLY ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, AND HE AFFIRMED GOS ADHERENCE TO OAU CHARTER CONDEMNATION OF INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.

4. NEVERTHELESS, NIMEIRI INDICATED GOS WOULD CONTINUE PROVIDE FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITY SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIANS WHO HE ALLEGED WERE SUFFERING FROM FOOD SCARCITY SINCE DIRG CAME TO POWER. HE ALSO INVITED WORLD'S JOURNALISTS TO COME TO SUDAN TO MEET ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES HERE AND TO LEARN FROM THEM OF THEIR PLIGHT.

5. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S KADUGLI SPEECH SHOWS THAT PREVIOUS SPEECH IN GEDAREF WAS NOT SIMPLY AN UNEXPECTED TEMPER TANTRUM. RATHER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT GOS IS IN MIDST OF MAJOR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST EPMG. SUNA JANUARY 3 NOTES NIMEIRI'S

SPEECH REPORTED BY AP, UPI, VOA AND SEVERAL OTHER ARAB AND EUROPEAN MEDIA. THIS SHOWN BY INVITATION OF JOURNALISTS TO PUBLICIZE STORY. MOREOVER, ANTI-ETHIOPIAN REMARKS ALSO EMERGING UNCLASSIFIED

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ELSEWHERE IN SUDAN. FOR EXAMPLE AT CLOSE JONGLEI PROVINCE SSU CONFERENCE, ONE RESOLUTION CONDEMNED ESTABLISHMENT OF AGGRESSIVE MILITARY CAMPS IN ETHIOPIA. FURTHER COMMENT SEPTTEL. BREWER

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